

## REMARKS

In view of the above amendments, and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully sought.

The claims now presented for consideration are claims 1 and 4-17, with claims 1, 4, 12, and 15 being independent. Claim 4 has been amended to be presented in independent form, and claims 12 and 15 have been amended to improve their form and to more clearly recite features of the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1 and 4-11 are allowed and that claims 13 and 17 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 has been amended herein only to be rewritten in independent form; Applicant submits that this claim still is in allowable form. Claims 13 and 17 have not been rewritten in independent form, inasmuch as Applicant believes that claims 12 and 15 are allowable.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 7-209933 to Fukishima et al. and claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukishima et al. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As now recited in independent claim 12, according to one aspect of Applicant's invention, an image forming apparatus includes an image bearing member, transferring means, and fixing means. Among other features, during formation of an image on the image bearing member, a moving speed of the image bearing member is slower when a recording material is used that has a basic weight that is a first value than the moving speed of the image bearing member when a recording material is used that has a basic weight that is a second value greater than the first value.

As now recited in independent claim 15, according to another aspect of Applicant's invention, an image forming apparatus includes an image bearing member, writing means, transferring means, fixing means, a first driving motor, and a second driving motor. Among other features, during formation of an image on the image bearing member, a magnification of an image written on the image bearing member by the writing means varies in a moving direction of the image bearing member by varying a rotational speed of the second driving motor to a rotational speed of the first driving motor according to a kind of the recording material.

As a benefit of the features of the invention set forth in these independent claims, even when different kinds of recording materials are used, variation of a magnification value is avoided.

Applicant submits that at least the above-identified features of claims 12 and 15 are not taught or suggested by Fukushima et al.

Fukushima et al. is directed to an image forming device and its image controlling method and teaches that the speed of a photosensitive drum 1 or of a fixing unit 10 is reduced in thick paper mode. In addition, as set forth in paragraphs [0066] to [0069], that patent teaches that the speed of the photosensitive drum 1 or the fixing unit 10 is reduced *after* completion of transferring of a toner image onto a paper. (“[A]fter the imprint of the toner image of Black Bk, the process speed of a photoconductor drum 1 is first reduced according to the fixation bearer rate of a fixing assembly 10...” Fukushima et al., para. [0069] (emphasis added)).

However, nowhere does Fukushima et al. teach or suggest that a moving speed of the image bearing member is slower when a recording material is used that has a basic weight that is a first value than the moving speed of the image bearing member when a recording material is used that has a basic weight that is a second value greater than the first value, *during formation of an image on the image bearing member*, as recited in claim

12. In addition, nowhere does Fukushima et al. teach or suggest that a magnification of an image written on the image bearing member by the writing means varies in a moving direction of the image bearing member by varying a rotational speed of the second driving motor to a rotational speed of the first driving motor according to a kind of the recording material, *during formation of an image on the image bearing member*, as recited in independent claim 15.

Moreover, Applicant understands that the speed of the fixing unit 10 is reduced in Fukushima et al. to keep the condition of fixing when thick paper is used and the speed of the photosensitive drum 1 is reduced to keep the binding condition of paper between the fixing unit 10 and separation means 9. Fukushima et al. does not avoid variation of magnification value, even when different kinds of recording materials are used.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 12 and 15, is patentably defined over Fukushima et al. Allowance of claims 12 and 15 and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are requested.

Claims 13, 14, 16, and 17 depend from one of claims 12 and 15, and thus also are believed allowable. Individual and independent consideration of these dependent claims are requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issuance are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Didas', is written over a horizontal line.

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